

Pappas Telecasting Companies' 'donation' of \$325,000 in airtime to Republican candidates in certain areas is yet another example of a powerful media group abusing its privileged access to the public airwaves.

I felt the same way about the Sinclair misuses. Our Democracy requires that not our citizens, but our corporations, keep the free press open for honest debate and dialogue. Today's news has become corporate agenda, not journalism and citizens like myself have become all too aware of the consolidation of such power to control the news. We will push for elected officials that support divestiture of airwave ownership.

Localism is not served when a corporate headquarters decides to provide one side in local elections a louder voice than others. During election season, local audiences should be offered genuine debate -- not disingenuous offers to "purchase" an equal amount of response time.

Pappas uses the public airwaves free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Pappas' actions are legally questionable and cast doubt on whether Pappas truly intends to serve the public interest. Their actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Further, they show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than just a returned postcard. Thank you.